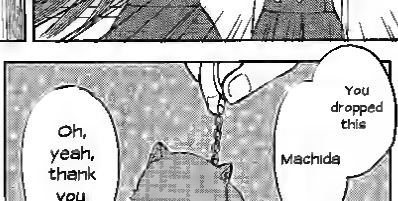
Kaoru
Kohagi
AND THESE TWO ARE MACHIDA KAORU AND INOUE KOHAGI.
MY NAME IS SHIKAMA MOMIJI.
WE MET BY BEING FANS OF THE SAME TV SHOW.
A MOST ORDINARY GROUP OF FRIENDS.
YES
Kurosawa, good morning!
Good morning.
A MOST ORDINARY STORY.

Chapter 19:
Tell me that's love

A Kiss and a White Lily for Her

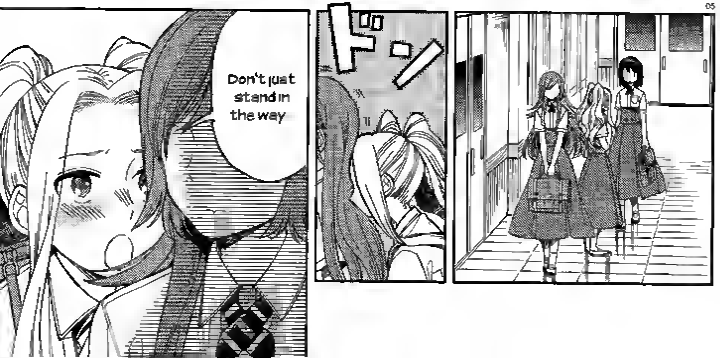
Aaah, these god-damn end-of-term exams are finally over!
I managed to get by by cramming all night again
And it will be enough to get the average 80 points. My I don't like people like you.
Stop praising me
I'm not
And you, Kaoru?
Kaoru?
Ah, sorry
I was spacing out all the time. I couldn't really concentrate.
I might have failed at maths.
But anyway let's forget about these exams.
How about we buy donuts on the way home?
カラ

Kurosawa!
We're late
?


You dropped this
Machida
Oh, yeah, thank you

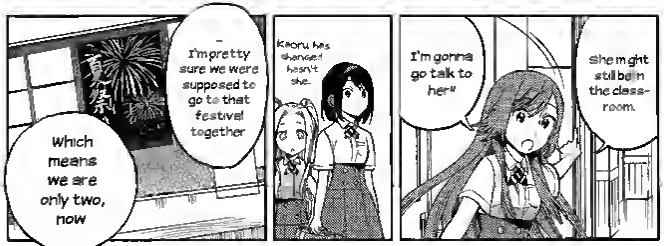
You dropped your wombat.

She talked to me by herself!!
That's the first time!
Err and this
A wristlet I made in the sewing club.
Eh he he
Ah ha ha
At this rate, we can get closer and closer
And bond by sewing a patchwork together!
I don't quite get your criteria for "being close"
Kurosawa doesn't seem to be the patchwork type indeed
Still, you sound quite jolly, Keoru, don't you.
What happened to the girl with a broken heart?
Well, the cause was Kurosawa wasn't it?
Huh?


Don't just stand in the way
ドン

*Summer festival

I'm inviting her!
...No matter.


Which means we are only two, now
I'm pretty sure we were supposed to go to that festival together
Kaoru has changed! hasn't she.
I'm gonna go talk to her!!
She might still be in the classroom.

Momiji, Kohagi!
パタ
パタ
I don't wanna go if I have to end up with just you.
That's my line.

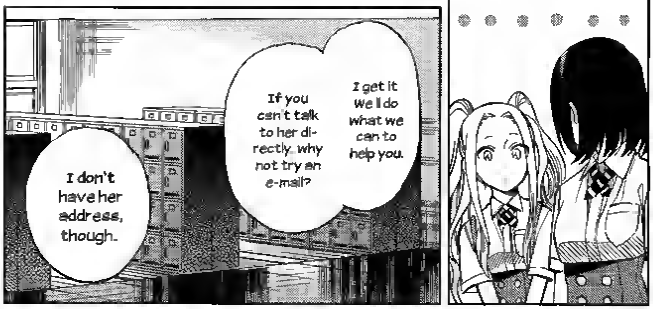
I'm so tense the words just won't get out...
Good-bye.
Err...good-bye!
Kuro-sawa!
RE-PLAY
END

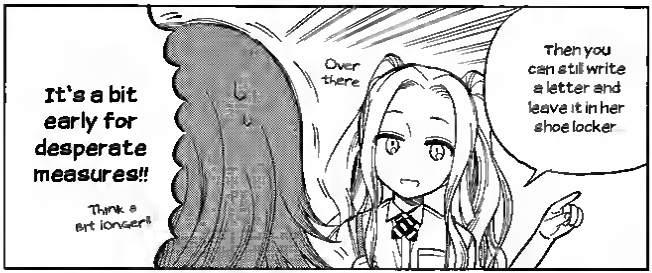
I never said more than three words in a row to her, in the first place...
I failed
What a surprise
ガク

08

I'm a bit hungry
Come on let's buy those do-nuts.
Not much we can do about it.
Wait! Don't change the topic!
STOP

Come now. Why do you have to be so fixated on Kuro-sawa?
Since she's a genius you're hoping she'll lend you her notes or help you to ace the tests?
That's what I would do
No I'm not!!
I just thought it would be great
if we could get along.


I don't have her address, though.
If you can't talk to her directly, why not try an e-mail?
I get it. We'll do what we can to help you.


It's a bit early for desperate measures!!
Think a bit longer!
Over there
Then you can still write a letter and leave it in her shoe locker

You say that, but
If she doesn't take care of it herself, it might cause problems...
You're taking this too lightly, Momi!
I'm gonna ask her, problem solved
It'll take forever with Kohagi's methods.

Why would I do that!!
...Actually...
What?
Aren't you just trying to get in her way because it would annoy you if she made a new friend?
By laying it on paper I might be less stressed.
So, there you have it.
I went and wrote a letter
For Kurosawa
Hello!
Good morning
Well...I guess it's kinda like you.
Ehehe.

I hope she'll give me an answer
Or else, she's gonna eat it
Kurosawa isn't a goat!
Kya!
Wah!

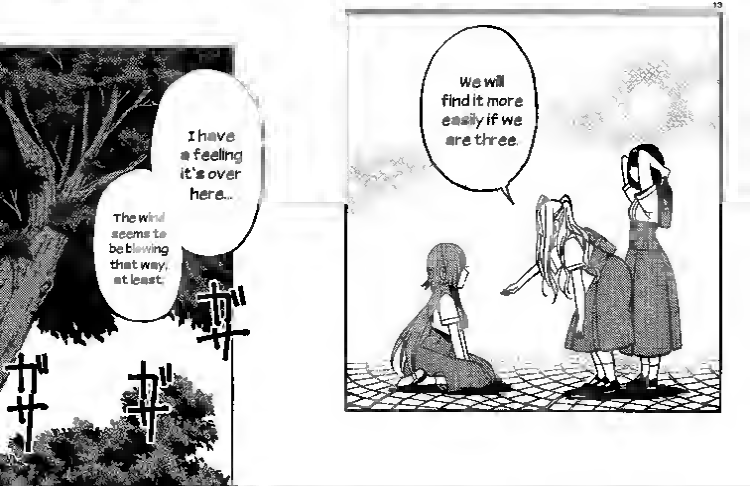
Gone
HUH?!
It sure is windy, today

Wh... Where did it fly to?!
Can you see it?
Nope.

I had finally found a little courage.
Maybe I'll never be able to be friends with Kurosawa after all...

Oh no You're kidding me

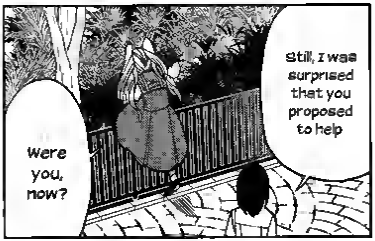
Kaoru, go to search in those bushes.
Momiji and I will look on the other side.
It's fine! You're gonna be late.
I'll look for it myself later


We will find it more easily if we are three.
I have a feeling it's over here...
The wind seems to be blowing that way, at least.
ガサ
ガサ
ガサ

Then I think we should coope-rate
For Kaoru's sake

Would you please not look in the place aa I do?!
What? You're the one sticking to me.
Why did we even split?

Well... I thought I would find it here, too
And you have quite a good intuition...
Kohag, you have sharp eyes don't you?


Still, I was surprised that you proposed to help
Were you, now?

If it's for her sake

I hit bulls-eye, huh?
It irks you that she only has eyes for Kuro-saws
Well, you do have a point

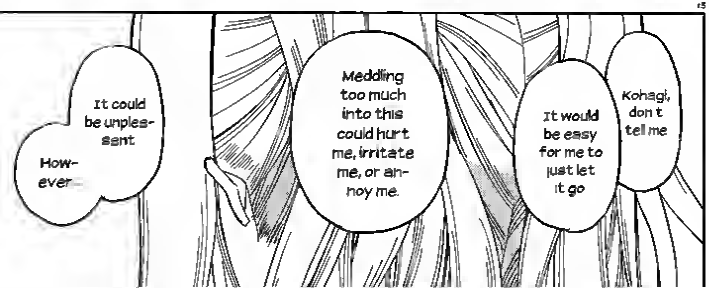
I FOUND IT!!

!

Hey, are you listening?

Let's leave it at that, it's too risky.

It fell onto the pond? What a pain—


Kohagi, don't tell me
It would be easy for me to just let it go
Meddling too much into this could hurt me, irritate me, or annoy me.
It could be unpleasant
However—

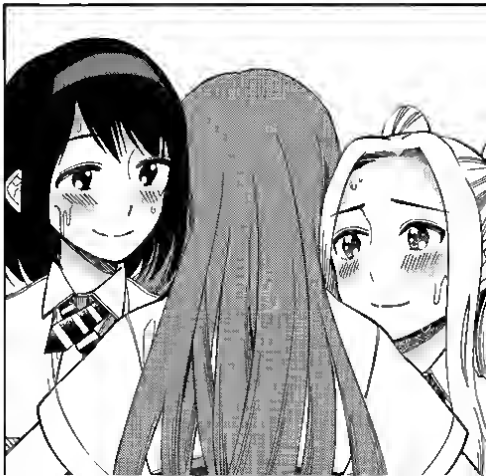
you are ready to walk alongside your friend in their life.
To me, friendship means
that no matter the blows you take

I see. Then I guess I'll join you.
Kaoru.
Hm
Did you go for a dip?!

It had fallen onto the pond
What? This is too much
The pond was shallow
Oh no, we were not supposed to end up soaking wet
But that big one tripped and dragged me down with her
Uwaaah
Sploosh
Come on, I'm sorry
Thanks, you two
黒沢さん
Except the letter is unreadable, now
There's no helping it, I'll just write another one

I'm already happy that you're willing to go this far for my sake

THE DAY AFTER



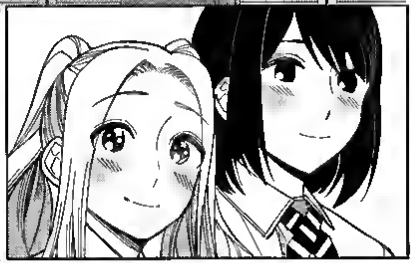
Why did your tension drop, all of a sudden?
どよん
I put it in this morning, but I can't stay calm, since then
Since it's a letter. It'll take a bit of time before she answers, right?
!!
For Machida
Read it, please...
Hey, read it yourself

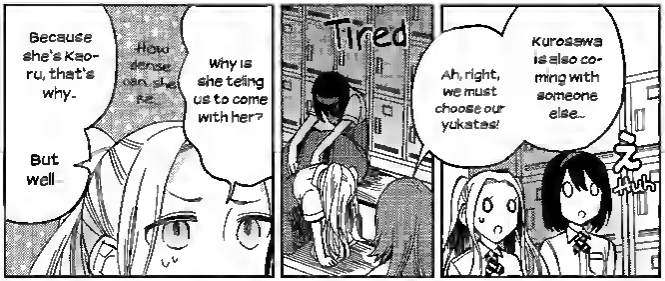
She said yes!!

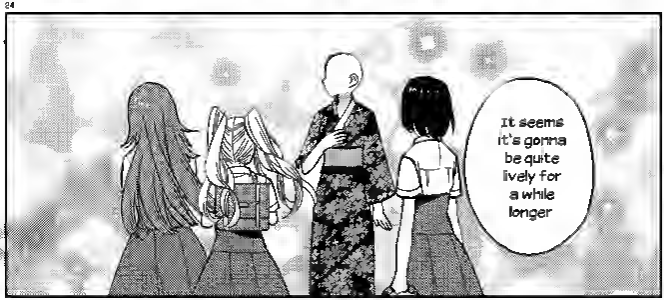
Kohagi, Momiji, thank you!!
Congratulations. I'm glad for you.
Go and have fun at the festival.

You two..

Hm?
Us two?




Why is she telling us to come with her?
How dense can she be
Because she's Kaoru, that's why.
But well...
Tired
Ah, right, we must choose our yukatas!
Kurosawa is also coming with someone else...
Zzz...



One step at a time ...!